



1731

PATENT  
CASE NAME/NO.: SP01-276

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Inventor: de SANDRO, et al.

Serial No: 09/960,559

Filing Date: 9/21/2001

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR  
REDUCING STRESS BETWEEN  
DEPOSITIONS WITHIN A SUBSTRATE  
TUBE

Art Group Unit: 1731

Examiner: Peter Chin

**RESPONSE**

Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

In the Office Action dated February 5, 2004, in the above-captioned application, the Examiner issued a Restriction Requirement identifying the following groups of claims as being drawn to potentially distinct inventions:

Group I. Claims 1 – 14 and 31 – 37, drawn to a method, classified in class 65, subclass 397;

Group II. Claims 15 – 22, drawn to an apparatus, classified in class 65, subclass 530; and

Group III. Claims 23 – 30, drawn to an optical fiber, classified in class 385, subclass 141.

The Examiner asserted that these inventions may be regarded as independent and distinct from one another because:

Inventions I and II are related as process and apparatus for its practice, and that in the instant case the apparatus can be used to practice a materially different process such as making a ceramic article.

Inventions I and III are related as process of making and product made, and that in the instant case the product can be made by a materially different process such as a gel process.

Applicants respectfully elect the invention of Group I, upon which claims 1 – 14 and 31 – 37 read, without traverse.

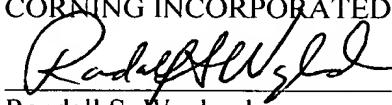
Applicants respectfully elect the invention of species directed to method of forming a glass article upon which claims 31-37 read, without traverse.

Applicants believe that no extension of time is necessary to make this Response timely. Should Applicants be in error, Applicants respectfully request the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as necessary to make this Response timely, and hereby authorizes the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.

Please direct any questions or comments to Randall S. Wayland at 607-974-0463.

Respectfully submitted,

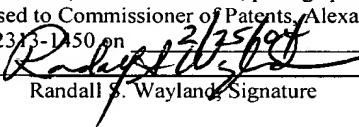
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Date: 2/25/04

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R.**

**§ 1.8:** I hereby certify that this paper and any papers referred to herein are being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service, as first class mail, postage prepaid, addressed to Commissioner of Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

  
Randall S. Wayland Signature